

Transcription: Roy Mahaffey

Today is Thursday, September 10, 2009. My name is James Crabtree and I'm interviewing Mr. Roy Mahaffey, and this interview is taking place by telephone. I'm at the General Land Office Building in Austin, Texas, and Mr. Mahaffey is at his home in Darozet, Texas, and this interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board's Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. Sir, first off thank you today for letting us interview you. It's an honor for me and for everyone here at the Land Office, and usually the first question we always start with is to ask you maybe to tell us a little bit about your childhood and your life before you entered the Army.

Roy Mahaffey: I was helping working with my father on the farm over in Oklahoma, and in the south end, side of Beaver County, Oklahoma, and I was drafted from there and went to Oklahoma City and from there I was inducted at Fort Inn and went to the 45th Infantry Division down at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. That's where I got basic training, and worked as a supply clerk the rest of 1941.

How old were you, sir, when you got your draft notice?

Roy Mahaffey: 22, I believe. I was a little older than most of the inductees.

Do you remember where you were when you learned that Pearl Harbor had been bombed?

Roy Mahaffey: I was at the farm.

What did you think when you learned that? Did you figure you'd probably be going to war yourself?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, I knew that I would be called soon because I had a low number and I'd been in the 3 C's and had a little bit of military training with them. We were boarded, and clothes and medical, feed, everything was done by the Army.

So you'd been in the Civilian Conservation Corps?

Roy Mahaffey: Yes.

So you got the draft notice, how much time did you have before you had to be inducted?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh, about a month. I was called January 1, 1941, and then I got another notice that that call had been filled by volunteers. There was four people turned down, and I got a call then for January the 24th to bring our number up, and all four of us went to Oklahoma. On that call were passed, we were sent down to, we were sworn in at Oklahoma City and sent to a lot in Oklahoma to the 45th Infantry Division. Two of us was assigned to Company I of the 120th Medical Regiment, hospital company.

What was the mood like amongst your fellow inductees when you first got to Fort Sill?

Roy Mahaffey: We were all trying to get our year. See, we were called up for one year, and then supposed to be able to go back home. But Pearl Harbor hit. On Friday evening, I went into

the office, the company office, and asked to fill out the paperwork to be discharged when my year was up, but they said busy right now, come in Monday. On Sunday was Pearl Harbor. So my year turned into five years.

OK, I misunderstood. So you'd already been drafted, the peace time draft in early 1941.

Roy Mahaffey: Yes, January 1941.

Which I think a lot of people don't realize that people were being drafted into the service even before the war had started. So you were there at Fort Sill when you learned that Pearl Harbor had been bombed?

Roy Mahaffey: Let's see, no, after we got our basic training at Fort Sill, they moved the 45th Division down to Camp Barclay, Texas, near Abilene, and in December of 1941 I was told I had to, well I was chosen to go to surgical technician school at Wadum Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso. So I went down there for two months of intensive surgical tech training for helping with operations and take care of injured men, and just a general trying to make nurses out of us in a hurry.

Did you feel like the training was pretty good quality?

Roy Mahaffey: Yes it was. It was intensive and real good.

And once you finished up there in El Paso, where did they send you to next?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, I went back to my unit and the 45th Division had changed from a square division to a triangular. They had reorganized it and made it during 1941 we went down to the Louisiana maneuvers for a couple of months, and down there, the 45th Division was quite instrumental in proving that a triangular organization can move a lot faster.

Was that at Fort Polk?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh, we were all over the state, clear from the north end clear down to the Gulf. And we moved the full length of the Division two or three times.

If I remember correctly from what I've read as well, the Louisiana maneuvers were where General Patton kind of came to prominence, weren't they? I think he scored some sort of victory there in the war games?

Roy Mahaffey: I don't remember Patton. I had heard of, but I was pretty much the information I got was from our Division, or General Key was the commander I believe was his name, the commander of the 45th Division, and he used all of our trucks at one time and left our medical regiment isolated up at the north end. It was fun. Purd was using the emergency rations, old World War I chocolate bars and biscuits, and whatever wildlife we could get and occasionally a farmer's pig would attack one of our guys and I'd have to shoot it.

How long did you spend in Louisiana on those maneuvers?

Roy Mahaffey: It was about two months, the length of time of the maneuvers.

At that point did you know where you'd be going to after that? Did you believe you'd be going to the Pacific or to Europe?

Roy Mahaffey: No, there wasn't, we felt we'd probably be going to Europe because just shortly after I got back from our training, my medical training, they shipped us up to Fort Devins, Massachusetts, and we were frozen for overseas shipment. I'd been accepted for aviation cadet training, but the Division was frozen. But some of the ships that were supposed to take us across, that's the rumor I got, were sunk, so they changed our shipping and turned the Division loose and I shipped back to Texas to go into the aviation cadets. I finished up 1942 with the in flight training. I got as far as basic, washed out. I was eliminated there because of air sickness.

Where did you do your training in Texas for that?

Roy Mahaffey: I took the pre-flight training down in San Antonio, and then moved up to Coleman, Texas for primary, and then near – overrunning myself.

That's all right, sir. When you washed out, I imagine you were probably disappointed about having that happen.

Roy Mahaffey: No, I knew that was going to happen because I'd been fighting this air sickness and I'd lost from about 180 pounds down to 160, and the day that I washed out, I just didn't have strength enough to handle the controls of the BT-13's we were flying. I knew it was going to happen. Yes, I loved to fly. It was some disappointment, but I'd realized by that time it was going to happen.

When you got the news that you'd washed out, did you know where you were going to be going to after that?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, they shipped me to the nearest Air Corps base and that was at San Angelo Army Air Field. We were just at another base just close to there for basic training, and I spent 18 months in the hospital at San Angelo Army Air Field. The first 8 months, I worked in the operating room. They had two doctors and two nurses and two enlisted men as the operating team crew, and it was real good. But then they needed someone to take over sick call and ambulance service, and they assigned me to that, and I was back there 10 months before I moved to the 70th Infantry Division.

Tell us a little bit if you would, sir, about the 70th Infantry.

Roy Mahaffey: Well, it was at a training division up until that time in Oregon, and I got out there on one Saturday. The next Saturday I went to the Pacific Ocean and did some fishing there, and the Saturday following that they shipped the Division to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and that's where we got our final training before we were shipped overseas.

Tell us about going overseas. Did they put you on the converted luxury liner ships to send you across the Atlantic?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, see that was about the time of the Battle of the Bulge and they needed infantrymen overseas and the fastest way to get 'em was to move the regiments, but we didn't have our combat support units, so I don't remember where the other regiments were put, but the 276th that I was in was assigned to the 45th Division. I was in one battle and that was at the

Battle of Wingen, and it was accredited to the 45th Division as their fight. So my first combat was with the Division I had originally started with. It sounds like I was really into it, but during that time, I was giving my squad, I took a squad of mine platoon men from the anti-tank company overseas. I was a buck sergeant and they didn't have a job for a buck sergeant medic. So they assigned me as a squad leader in the mine platoon, I had a tank company. We were up on a hill about a half mile out of town and giving protection to a couple of cannons and two anti-tank rifles, 56 mm anti-tank guns that were shooting direct fire into town. We were just giving protection to those guns and there wasn't any action up there except for the big guns shooting.

What was the mood and the morale like of the men you served with, especially when you got to Europe?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, we were shipped out, went to Boston and shipped out on the USS Westpoint. That was America's largest luxury liner that had been converted for troop transport, and as soon as we were just outside of, just a little ways out, we didn't have any protection at all except a bomber went ahead of us, flew out ahead and watched for submarines, and that ship could outrun anything else that was there, so we just went by ourselves.

How long did it take for the ship to make it across the Atlantic?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh, I forget, I was there hanging on the rail most of the time.

Because of sickness?

Roy Mahaffey: Yes, uh-huh, but we went in through the Straits of Gibraltar to Marseilles, France, and after we got into the Mediterranean, the sea seemed to be just as flat as a mill pond. So I got to see Gibraltar on one side and Africa on the other. It was clear. Then when we got to Marseilles, they wouldn't let us come in close because they was afraid we would attract bombers. So they shuttled the men ashore with little ships, just boats, whatever they could get. Then we went up across France on 40 and 8 boxcars and arrived at the Briden River on Christmas Day, 1944, when we got there. I transferred into the 45th Division early in 1944.

Did you have much interaction with the civilian population when you went through France?

Roy Mahaffey: Didn't see much of 'em. We just didn't see Frenchmen.

At that point when you got across the Rhine, did you feel like the U.S. was winning the war in Europe?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, we didn't, we got up there and the Germans was on one side of the river and we were on the other. I had one experience that was kind of funny. The 70th men were relieving a unit of the 45th Division and a major went up on top of the dike there that bordered the river, and said where are those blankety-blank Germans? And one German on the other side of the river opened up on him with a burp gun and he just didn't elevate it high enough. The shells hit the ground right at his feet, and he came in, the CP's, our company CP and the battalion CP was right there together, and I could hear him from our office over in his, he was telling about it. There was a booby trap set out there and he wanted that removed. So they sent, that was part of our business to neutralize booby traps as well as set mines. So they sent my squad out there to take care of it. The men, they had tied a trip wire across a path so it would pull the pin on a hand grenade, and I told them I was sent out to neutralize that and they said oh please

don't do that. We need that tonight as a warning system. And I just untied the other end of the wire and showed them, said this is the way I neutralize it, and I pushed that, just laid the wire back. I told them they could tie it back again. But I had done what he had sent me out there to do, and the guys out there were the ones that told me about what had happened with the major, that where are those Germans...he found out.

Yeah, he was lucky.

Roy Mahaffey: He wasn't hurt, but they let him know that they were there.

So what happened once you got to the Rhine and pushed across?

Roy Mahaffey: Well on New Years', Hitler launched the north wind offensive that was supposed to break through like he tried to do at the Bulge, and they took three or four towns, but we stopped 'em there and took those towns back. Wingen was one of the towns, and when the battle started, we were billeted just outside of town, and tracers, bullets came above where we were. We moved back a ways, and then the next day we moved up on that hill to support it, and I was there, we sent two squads each day, and my squad went up the first day, and then on the third day, and that was the end, we took the town back on the third day, and I got to watch it. There was a big church on that side of town and the Germans had held the people that they captured in that, and then when they had orders to pull back, they just turned them loose. I counted up to 67 men that came out of that church and ran into a little gulley, laid down and crawled out farther, and then I started counting again after I had missed some, and I counted 120 I believe it was that came out of that church. So I know there were several more than that.

Were they German civilians?

Roy Mahaffey: No, our military men that had been captured. We asked them, they came up on the hill where we were and I asked how they were treated. They said oh, all right, they weren't mistreated particularly. They said this morning a German sergeant came in and said guten morning boys, it's time to get up, and they used the burp gun and shot above them, and woke 'em up that way, but nobody was hurt. It just woke 'em up in a hurry.

Did you ever have a chance to run into any German POWs?

Roy Mahaffey: Not at that time. I did later, but that was right after the Battle of Wingen, they pulled me and two squads of the mine platoon back into a big warehouse working at battlefield salvage. I had most of a year of experience in working in supply, before they sent me to the surgical tech school, and they brung truckloads of CI equipment that they picked up at eight stations and I don't know where they got it all, but we cleaned it up and repaired it, got it ready to issue again, and most of the supplies at that time were going to re-equip the military forces where the Bulge had been. We just didn't get much new stuff. They were really hollering for us to get that stuff processed so they could get it back out.

While you were there and all of that was going on, did you have much contact with home in terms of getting mail and things of that sort?

Roy Mahaffey: No, the anti-tank company was billeted not very far from supply, so well, yeah, our mail came through all right at that time.

Did you have a chance to kind of know what was going on in terms of the bigger picture?

Roy Mahaffey: No, we didn't get much news. We heard a little bit about the towns that had been captured when we took 'em back, but I didn't get much news at that time. Then after six weeks of that, we got that job pretty well done, and I met the regimental surgeon that I had helped with sick call during our stay at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri, and he said you're a medic, aren't you? I said yes sir. He said when you come back, we have two companies that doesn't have any aid men, and no company had more than one. We sure do need the aid men, and I agreed to go back as a medic, and they assigned me to Company E and we went into Forback, France, and some of the new men, the company had been brought up to strength, men shipped directly from basic training in the States, you know, kids, and we were in this little alley, and they thought they were safe there, so they bunched up and were talking and a sniper knocked down a bunch of them, and I went out and picked them up. Our BAR man covered me while I was out there, and in that alley that was right there where the sniper had knocked them down.

That was a town in Germany?

Roy Mahaffey: Yeah, that was in France, just right up close to the border between Germany and France.

Were you guys ever able to get the sniper?

Roy Mahaffey: No, he was active. We went, a bunch of men in there, and went through that house three times I believe, but I was with them standing back and watching, and they would bring the civilians out and put them from one house to another. There was a woman that was, I'd say she was about 30 years old, something like that, you couldn't tell exactly, and the way she acted, I picked her out as being the sniper, but no way of proving it. I told one of the sergeants what I thought. He said oh no, couldn't be. But I still think that woman was the one that was doing the sniping. But we just stayed down pretty much. A litter squad was coming across an open field that day, that afternoon, and the sniper shot them down, and the company commander of E Company gave me a direct order not to go out to there where they were. So I went out in the evening, and as I started out there, there was a little fence, a woven wire fence at the back of the garden, and it had been tromped down, and I stepped over that. There was a body laying there. I didn't know it was there. I'd gone down under, behind a brick wall as far as I could to be safe, and the body had good color. I asked are you hurt? No answer. I reached down to turn him over to see what happened, and I pulled up on his shoulder and he shrugged loose. He was playing dead, and he was determined to be dead. I kicked him in the ribs and told him I was a GI medic, get up from there.

It was an American soldier?

Roy Mahaffey: There wasn't anything wrong with him. He was just scared.

Oh, you think because he knew somebody had been cut down in that field earlier perhaps?

Roy Mahaffey: Well the sniper was back to our left, and he'd made it that far, where the sniper started shooting. The next one I found, it was evening in the twilight when I went out there, and there was a guy laying in a little ditch with his hands above his head, and his elbows that were pushed back above, from his back, and I asked him if he was hurt, and he said no. But I can't move. He'd tried to move right after he fell, and a sniper put a bullet through his clothes. It

didn't hit him, but it went through his webbing on his back. He laid there for a little while and then he kicked around and tried to get straightened out again, and it put the second bullet through there, and it didn't hit him but it cut his webbing. He laid still after that. When I got there I had to pull his arms up and turn him over and he got circulation back in his arms, and he was OK. But another one had been killed and a fourth man had been hit in the neck and he was paralyzed. His body functions were still working. He was still alive, but he seemed to be paralyzed. I loaded him on the stretcher and then we took him in, and a little later a litter squad came in and took them out. That was my first day of action. After that, nothing stacked up like that.

What was a typical day like with your unit, if there was one, while you were on the move in Europe?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, while we were clearing out Forback, they just were systematically going through the houses and clearing the town, making sure there wasn't any German soldiers left behind, and we were drawing fire from a sniper on an elevated railroad through there, and finally got our mortars pinpointed where he was and stopped that. We worked two days at that and then we were pulled back and went up in the mountains along the Magina line, you know, the pillboxes that France put up. We were up there for five or six days, and things were quiet, and there was a trench there. Our unit had men there were four or five feet along that, and being a medic, I was inside of a blown out pillbox. It still had a roof on it, but one side had been blown out. The guys out there on the line could count the men that was in the pillbox next to us. The Germans had it, and then in the morning they would come out of that and go across to relieve themselves, and they counted them. Then we had a little fire fight there with them. That was the first time I'd ever experienced anything like that. Boy, the fighting, the firing was really burning a lot of ammunition. I started out to see if anybody was hurt. They said doc, get back, if we need you we'll call you. From then I got to where I could see what was going on and nearly all of those rifles, the Germans and the Americans, were set at an angle and shooting up in the air and they weren't getting up high enough so they would be hit. They would just make a lot of noise. I don't think there's anybody hurt on either side, the Germans or the Americans. They pulled back.

Where did your unit move to, sir, after you got into Germany and you'd gone through that initial battle when you crossed the Rhine?

Roy Mahaffey: I was reassigned to medics. The 70th Infantry Division forces, our supporting units had come over from the States and we were reestablished as a division. I was with the 70th instead of being part of the 45th Division or other divisions.

Did you have a pretty good feeling at that point that the Americans, we were gonna win, that you were moving the Germans back and making ground on 'em?

Roy Mahaffey: Yes, we were just systematically forcing them back. It was still, well we went from up on the hill, they pulled us back into Forback, and we cleared out part of the town the first day we went in there. The second day we went out the underpass to clear the woods on the north side of town and I was under the wrong tree. A shell burst in the tree above me and I walked out with 11 or 12 pieces of shrapnel in the back. I was real lucky because there was a man that hit the ground, I could've hit him with my helmet, and a piece of that shell bit large enough to break one of the bones in his leg hit him, and I helped him support walk to a basement of a house and then I went on back to the aid station. They shipped me out. The war was over before I – I was on the way back to our unit when Germany surrendered.

Do you remember where you were when you heard the news that the war was over?

Roy Mahaffey: I was in a replacement depot and they had moved the 70th Division from one army to another, reassigned us, which the army that we were in, and I had to be in the replacement depot for that army to get back to my unit. So they moved me from one replacement depot to another, and it was in the second replacement depot when Germany surrendered.

And did you get the word, just kind of word of mouth? Or was there an announcement?

Roy Mahaffey: Yeah, we had quite a celebration. The first jet plane that I had ever seen flew over Germany had it, and it flew just right over our depot there, and went just a little farther and landed in an American field. He was flying back there to surrender to the Americans.

Did you think it was because he was trying to get away from the Russians?

Roy Mahaffey: Yes, uh-huh. That was a lot different than any other plane we'd seen.

Yeah, I bet. Was that a Mezzerschmidt?

Roy Mahaffey: I don't know what it was. It was just a single engine fighter that was powered by a jet, and it really was movin' on.

At that point, how close had you gotten towards Berlin or towards making contact with the Russians? Or did you ever really know?

Roy Mahaffey: Our unit never was real close to 'em. I was in the replacement depot, there didn't seem to be any hurry getting us out, and when I finally got back, Company E was at Oberleinstein on the Rhine River, and when they were breaking across there, there was a bridge that was, well the Germans kept it active as long as they could take anything across, and then they were gonna blow it up. They blew up part of it but it was still enough that you could go across it, and our unit got across there and stopped 'em from blowing up the rest of it. Then Company E, I was still in the replacement depot. I was just going by what the guys told me when they got back. But they kept men just almost shoulder to shoulder across that bridge firing at anything that floated down the river. He said when they first started out, they were just plunking at it. But someone hit a mine that was floating down and it soaked a bunch of 'em and rocked the bridge pretty good. He said from then on, anything that even looked like it might be something floating, they were firing at it. But then the engineers built a pontoon bridge just below it that was safer than that bridge that had been weakened. So then they drew the men off of the bridge and that was when the Germans surrendered about that time, too.

When you finally got the word that the Germans had surrendered and the war was over in Europe, did you all think that you were gonna be sent to Japan or to the Pacific?

Roy Mahaffey: Everybody was counting their points at that time and I was high point, and felt pretty sure that I wasn't going, but the 70th Division was designated as a unit to take high point men to the States, and they moved all the low point men out and had them on the way, well part of them had already gone over. Japan surrendered before they got a whole bunch of them moved.

Were you still in Europe when you learned that Japan had surrendered?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh yeah, we were in German occupation. They moved us from Oberleinstein on the Rhine back up to Kapsenferg, Germany, and we were occupying a good-sized area there in Germany at that time.

How did you learn about the Japanese surrender?

Roy Mahaffey: I don't know how the word came down, but we had quite a celebration.

Yeah. And then at that point, how much longer was it before you were finally able to come back home?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh, it was a month and a half or two months, something like that. They got the division all reorganized with high point men and then they shipped us to LaHavre. While I was there, when I got back to the company, I was a three-stripe medic, and there had been four other medics come back to the company that had been wounded, so we had five medics in the company, and I organized the men to have an aid station and the men would just every five days we occupied, we took care of that, and that turned the rest of us loose to part of the time we could just take off and go around over the countryside, or just go out by the training units. They were still doing some, they kept the training going.

Where did you arrive when you finally got back to the United States?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, we came in to New York and it was really a thrill. I went up on the bow, the front of the ship, and they slowed us down so that we came in with the tide, and it was just daylight, and we could begin to see the outline of New York and Statue of Liberty, and it was quite a thrill to go in and dock. They had us already organized about what train we'd go out of New York on, and I was sent to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for discharge. But our train left New York and went up into Canada and then straight down south to Arkansas. I was discharged at Camp Chaffee I believe they called it. It was just outside of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

At that point did you get on a train and go back home?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, I was discharged there and I got on a bus and went to Oklahoma City, and then by bus to Seeling and I had a brother-in-law that was there and went on home, had borrowed his pickup to go on back out to Beaver County to the farm.

Can you describe what that was like the first time you got back home after being at war?

Roy Mahaffey: It was something that happened, when I went into the yard, my mother and father came out of the house and I jumped out of the pickup and went and hugged mama and turned to papa, and he had his arms up for a hug and I had never hugged my father. So I stuck my hand out and I shook his hand, and I'll never forget the hurt in his eyes. His little youngest son had come back and there instead of getting a hug, he got a handshake. So I've trained my sons. I raised five sons, and I've taught them that it was all right to tell each other that you loved 'em and when you greet each other, give them a hug.

Did you have any siblings that had gone to war as well?

Roy Mahaffey: I had three brothers that two of 'em were 4F. My kid brother just older than I was had stomach ulcers, and they were giving him quite a bit of trouble. My oldest brother had appendicitis and it ruptured and he had adhesions. He was a welder, too, and in Denver, making war supplies.

OK, so he had a vital war time job.

Roy Mahaffey: My other brother had a family and he was working on some construction work. He was a trucker and his truck was working on building, I don't know just where it was. They had him doing war support work.

So you were the one member of the family that had gone off to war. Did you get any letters or packages from your brothers when you were overseas?

Roy Mahaffey: Oh yeah, I got from my family. When I came back, my father retired from farming and he gave each of us a quarter section of land. I got the one that had our home on it, and my wife and I were organizing that so we could live in the house. I found a shoebox where mother had saved all of my letters. I didn't keep any notes about where I was at what time or anything like that. But every time I had changed assignment, I wrote a letter home and gave them my new address, and there all of those letters were, and it gave me an outline and I have written, I call it my letter stories. I used those as an outline and included part of the letters and then I wrote another set that was my memories, and I have those pretty well organized now.

That's great. And do you still live on that farm or did you sell it?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, I have it but I didn't like to shovel snow. We were snowed in out there one winter and we bought a house here in Darozet and I go from here – my son bought a section of land right next to mine, and he lives in California, and he said dad, you'll look after my land for me. I was going to give him my quarter to go with it, and he said you'll look after it for me, won't you? So one of the reasons he bought that was to keep me from setting down in the rocking chair, and I guess it's worked because I'm 91 now and still managing that 800 acres out there.

That's great. How long has that farm been in your family?

Roy Mahaffey: A little over 100 years. My dad filed on a quarter and in 1904 I think when he filed on that.

That would've been when Oklahoma became a state.

Roy Mahaffey: Well just right after that.

Yeah, 1904 I think was when it became a state. Wow. Well that's great.

Roy Mahaffey: The house he gave me, I was born in that house.

That's something. Yeah, you don't hear those stories anymore. That's great. I guess one thing we usually ask, too, sir, during these interviews, here at the Land Office we have archives that go back a couple hundred years. We have documents that were written by Stephen F. Austin that

have David Crockett's name on it and that sort of thing, and our hope is that these interviews will last a couple hundred years as well. So we always ask the veterans when we do these interviews, is there one thing you would want somebody to know about you or about your service that might be listening to this 100 years from now?

Roy Mahaffey: Well, without going into a lot of detail, I've covered the outline of my service, and while I was in the service, I was pretty military, and I guess after I retired, I went to college and met my wife out there, and then I got a job in civil service at Shepherd Air Force Base down near Wichita Falls, Texas, and that's where I raised my family, and I taught for the Air Force for 15 years, I taught aircraft electrical repair and then they moved that course, and I taught refrigeration for a while, and then moved to a course that was water and wastewater treatment. We just taught how to treat water, everything that the Air Force used water for, and finished up the last 5 years doing that. I got in my 20 years and then I retired. 5 years during World War II and then 15 years as a civilian instructor for the Air Force.

Well sir, it's been an honor for me to interview you and I know that Commissioner Patterson is a veteran, I'm a vet, and a lot of people here at the Land Office are veterans, but even those that aren't are very appreciative of your service to our nation.

Roy Mahaffey: It's been a pleasure to talk to you. I appreciate it. I hoped it helps somebody sometime.

Absolutely, and what we'll do, sir, is we'll make a copy of this interview onto CD and we'll send those copies to you so you can have or give to your children or whomever you wish, and then ultimately we'll get a transcript made of this that we'll send to you, and then our goal with a lot of our interviews is we try to post them on our website so that people can listen to it and if you have any pictures or copies of pictures you'd want us to put on the website, you can send those to us as well and we can make copies of them and send the originals back to you or however you want to do that. It's a good tool and a good asset and we really hope it's something that future generations won't forget.

Roy Mahaffey: OK, well thank you very much.

Yes sir thank you and you've got my number as well, sir, so give us a call if you ever need anything.

Roy Mahaffey: All right.

All right, thanks a lot, take care sir.

[End of recording]